

Rotherham Samaritans

**22 Percy Street
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
S65 1ED**

**Charity Registration Number
1173826**

**Annual Report & Financial Statements
for the 12 Months Ended
31 March 2023**

Rotherham Samaritans

Annual Report & Financial Statements for the 12 month period ended 31 March 2023

Contents

	Page
Trustees' Report	1 to 5
Statement of Officers' Responsibilities	6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Notes on Grant from SYCCG	8
Receipts and Payments Accounts	9
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	10
Notes to Accounts	11 to 13

Rotherham Samaritans

Trustees' Report

for the period ended 31 March 2023

The officers present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023

Governance

From 1st October 2017 Rotherham Samaritans has been a Charitable Incorporated Institution (CIO) with charity registration number 1173826. Prior to that, it was an unincorporated charity, called The Samaritans of Rotherham charity, number 1057161. It is also an independent affiliated branch of The Samaritans which is a legally constituted company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and whose registered office is situated at The Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF

The administration, control and management of the Rotherham Samaritans are vested in a local Director together with a number of Trustees, no less than three and not more than thirteen. The Trustees, together with the Secretary and Treasurer, are elected by the members at the AGM.

Principal Objective

Rotherham Samaritans was formed for the purpose of working for the assistance of persons who are suicidal, despairing or in distress in and around Rotherham.

Investment Powers

Under its constitution the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit.

Reserves

The reserves policy is to maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to continue operating for at least one year in the unlikely event of our receiving no income from any source. The funds are held as short term investments as shown in the statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 6.

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), Accounting and Reporting for Charities published in 2005 and applicable accounting standards. These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. All grants and voluntary income are accounted for gross when received. All expenditure is accounted for and when paid. Direct charitable expenditure includes the direct cost of activities. Where cash costs relate to more than one functional category, they have been split as appropriate.

Rotherham Samaritans

Trustees' Report (Continued)

for the period ended 31 March 2023

Trustees

Trustees during the year were:

Director	Mr David Pinder	Elected October 2021
Treasurer	Mr John Sparrow	Re-elected May 2022
Elected Member	John Glynn	Re-elected May 2022
Elected Member	Nicole Lyons	Resigned October 2022
Elected Member	Sheridan Higgs	Resigned October 2022
Elected Member	Kate Saunders	Elected May 2021
Elected Member	Fiona Wilson	Elected May 2021
Elected Member	Steve Wilson	Elected January 2022
Elected Member	Andrew Scott	Elected March 2023

The trustees are recruited from the charity's membership. They must be volunteers who have undertaken a course of preparation and had sufficient experience of the charity to be considered worthy of being a Samaritan. Trustees are given a copy of the Charity Commission guidelines for trustees and on-line training is available via the Samaritan General Office.

Director's Report

I divide the report into 2 parts this year. The first section is a summary of the year ended, and the second is a vision of our year ahead.

2022-3 Summary

The statistics, in terms of the number of volunteers in the branch, the number of people we have given Samaritan support to, and the financial accounts all reveal a successful year for Rotherham Samaritans.

The number of volunteers remains stable. We have set a target to increase our numbers and several ventures are under way to help us work towards this increase. Given that the world of volunteering appears to have become more challenging in the post COVID era, probably because the world of work has changed, the maintenance of volunteer numbers in the branch is heartening and thanks and credit are due to the recruiting team, led by Richard72, who have brought excellent new volunteers into the branch, and to the training team (Kate16, Sue103, Jayne98 and Helen88) who have worked very hard to ensure all the new volunteers are inspired to complete the training and to start doing shifts with us.

We have lost some services recently. For the moment at least we will not be re-introducing the option of face-to-face sessions for people coming to the branch. The national charity has brought in a number of new standards which must be adhered to and individual branches may choose whether to reinstate face-to-face meetings. Our Branch Leadership Team agreed that the work required to comply with the new standards is out of proportion to the benefits, given that face-to-face contacts were always a very small part of our work even pre COVID. I have outlined our plans for providing an alternative to this kind of contact in the second part of the report.

We also ceased to answer e-mails from the branch on 21st November 2022. The policy of the national charity is to move e-mail response to a small number of large branches and to the hubs. Some of our volunteers are in the process of applying to join the e-mail hub. We have expressed an

interest in becoming an online chat branch and we await the decision of when we might start this as this service is expanded.

We completed our Quality Action Plan in October 2022 and the plan which was agreed through this process now steers the direction of our work. The key areas include working towards increasing the number of volunteers in the branch. This means recruiting and training more volunteers but also ensuring that we take steps to retain the volunteers who are already working here. The summary acknowledged that our action plan is closely allied to the action plan of the national charity. Financially, the branch is in a sound position, a situation helped greatly by grant support from the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board who have expressed appreciation for the support which we give to Mental Health practitioners and GPs in supplementing their care for patients, particularly those with Mental Health problems or who have expressed suicidal thoughts. It is recognized that access to Samaritans can be very helpful to many of their patients when counsellors, crisis team members and other specialist carers are not available to them. They have given us generous grants with the general purpose of developing and advertising and promoting our work, but also, more specifically, in support of the Rotherham Samaritans Wellness Check Pathway. Samaritans and ICB both recognize that this has been a successful project and some other health services across Yorkshire and Humberside are looking to set up similar partnerships with their local Samaritan branches.

We have built up a team of volunteers who are trained to offer emotional support at venues away from the branch. The Outreach team, led by Fiona92, has visited the local football stadium for pre-match promotions and the local railway station and we have had a presence using our new gazebo at 2 local shows. Fiona has also placed banners and other promotional materials at key sites such as libraries and doctors' surgeries round Rotherham.

Rosie21 continues to work as the branch ambassador and her dual role as branch volunteer and volunteer in the Caller Support and Safeguarding hub means we have an excellent link and insight into the work of the hub as well as up-to-date information on callers with special concerns. Volunteers know they can call upon Rosie for accurate information about policies and procedures and her knowledge of these and about many of our callers is appreciated across the branch. One of the key threads in the national Samaritans Strategy is the development and implementation of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy. Mark is our lead officer in this work, and he has taken responsibility for keeping us informed about developments as the national strategy is drawn up and for ensuring that we comply with, and implement the policies in the branch.

Once again, this year I express my appreciation that I can work with 2 Vice Directors (Mark73 and Fiona92) who not only share the workload of running the branch but who come up with ideas or solutions to problems, so making the job of Director so much easier. Having the 2 Vice Directors is a huge support to me.

Mutual support is an important part of Samaritan life, and our thanks go to Sue04, Deputy for Volunteer Support. Soo continues to support volunteers in a number of ways and this year has introduced the very popular thank you cards which she sends to all volunteers over the year. Soo is also on hand for volunteers who have handled difficult calls or who are taking a break from working for health or other reasons.

Many thanks and acknowledgements are due to our team of support volunteers who carry out many hours of work necessary to maintain the charity. Steve092 is a listening volunteer but also takes responsibility for the premises and the equipment. Steve fulfils the essential role of Health and Safety through the sound maintenance of the working environment. John12, as well as being the listening volunteer who underpins our Sunday night shifts, in some ways the most important shifts on our timetable because they provide a service at the most challenging times for many people who contact us, is also our IT and communications expert, so a very useful person to have around when phones or pc systems don't appear to work as they should. Chris53 ensures all volunteers are up to date with DBS certification, a basic essential of the service. Our thanks go to Hannah for keeping the branch clean and to Linda who can be called upon for secretarial work in the office and to Jamie

for taking the meeting minutes. A special mention must be made of John00 as his years as treasurer come to an end. We are fortunate that Andy66 is in the process of picking up this vital role from John. I am pleased to say that John will remain with us as a support volunteer so we will still have access to all his knowledge of contacts in organizations which have been so supportive to Samaritans over many years.

I also pass on my thanks and appreciation to all the listening volunteers who continue to turn out to fill shifts at all times of the day and night. Answering the phone calls from people in distress is the core of our work. Many volunteers are also shift leaders and without volunteers in these 2 roles, we would cease to function as a branch. I also record my thanks to Kate16 who works tirelessly to ensure that gaps in the rota are filled. Kate's tenacious but gentle persuasion ensures a high proportion of our shifts are filled.

I feel privileged to work with everyone in the branch. The Samaritan qualities of thoughtfulness, tolerance, unselfishness and mutual support are everywhere apparent. Our links with other local charities, particularly those working to reduce the incidence of suicide, remain very strong, as do our links with Rotherham Borough Council and the S.Yorks Police and Crime Commissioners office. This concerted work in suicide prevention seems to be effective as the number of people taking their lives in Rotherham has been falling since 2019.

A few statistics:

Contacts from 01/05/2022 to 01/04/2023

Number of calls our branch has taken during the year.

Inbound Calls (Excluding Snaps)	6,729
Outbound Calls	393
Face-to-Face (Outside Branch)	2
Total Dialogue Contacts	7,202
Snaps	1,368
Total Contacts	8,570

The contact figures include the referrals by the NHS pathway on behalf of 179 people and we made 380 outgoing calls to these people between April 2022 and March 2023

Branch Service Delivery Statistics (01/05/2022 to 01/04/2023)

High Caller Volume Shifts

In this period 313 shifts covering 1074.8 hours were scheduled to run. Of these, 219 (69%) covering 768.8 hours actually ran. Of the shifts run during this time, 95% were staffed by 2 volunteers, 5% were staffed by 3 volunteers.

Normal Shifts

417 shifts covering 1459.5 hours were scheduled to run. Of these, 364 (87%) covering 1274.0 hours actually ran. Of the shifts run during this time, 92% were staffed by 2 volunteers, 8% were staffed by 3 volunteers,

Mentor Shift

4 shifts covering 13.0 hours were scheduled to run. Of these, 4 (100%) covering 13.0 hours actually ran. Of the shifts run during this time, 100% were staffed by 2 volunteers.

On December 2021 we had 42 listening volunteers. On 31st December 2022 we also had 42 listening volunteers. Ten volunteers resigned in the year. Some of these volunteers were on Leave of Absence and the figures include New Samaritans and probationers.

52 people enquired about applying to be volunteers and 29 were interviewed. Ten of these completed the training and were accepted as members of the branch.

The Year to come.

Although we maintained volunteer numbers last year, we are working to expand this number. The Yorkshire and Humberside region have suggested a target of 47 active listening volunteers by the year end. We have arranged to hold an Information evening in May and are advertising this to any people who might like to learn more about our work. There has also been an advertising campaign on buses on local routes to encourage people to consider volunteering with us.

Although we are not looking to resume face-to face contacts in the branch, we are hoping to run more sessions of outreach and a link with the Social Supermarket which is run at Rotherham Minster could give us a forum, both to promote the Samaritans and to give people a chance to talk to us in private if they so wish.

It is important that we maintain and develop strong links with other organisations, particularly those working in areas which have parallels to our own work but also to groups who have supported us in many other ways. As part of this process, we will be holding an open afternoon in May to which we will invite people from other groups who work in Mental Health support or in suicide prevention but also with organizations who have supported us financially. This event will give us opportunity to get to know the people in these groups, and will give them a chance to meet us and perhaps learn a little more about our work. We will also hold another thank you evening later in the year for the most important people in the branch- namely our volunteers and their partners.

By order of the Trustees

David Pinder
Director

Rotherham Samaritans

Statement of Officers' Responsibilities

for the period ended 31 March 2022

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the treasurer must follow best practice and:

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- (b) make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- (c) state whether applicable Accounting Standards of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- (d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity, and which enable them to both ascertain the financial position of the charity and ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity comfortably meets the published criteria.

The following financial report covers the accounts for the charity which operated under the name of Rotherham Samaritans (117 3826). The charity changed its name half way through the financial year 2017-18 from the Samaritans of Rotherham (105 7161).

By order of the Trustees

Bankers

NatWest Bank, 27 Effingham Street, Rotherham S65 1AU

Independent Examiner

Kate Parkin
c/o Parkins Accountants Ltd
Clifford Lister Business Centre
Bawtry Road
Wickersley
Rotherham
S66 2BL

Rotherham Samaritans

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Rotherham Samaritans on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 8 to 13

Charity number 1173826

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Parkin
c/o Parkins Accountants Ltd
Clifford Lister Business Centre
Bawtry Road
Wickersley
Rotherham
S66 2BL

9 June 2023

Notes on the Grant from South Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SYCCG)

The formal agreement signed with SYCCG stated that the Project will:

1. **Support the Rotherham Samaritans to maintain an ongoing presence and continue to be an important part of the Rotherham Mental Health support/provision.**
2. **Increase awareness of the Samaritan's support offer through the use of promotional materials and advertisements. This will include liaising with the RMBC Library Service and Voluntary Action Rotherham. Staff will link with appropriate groups to do presentation to partner organisations.**
3. **Maintain Rotherham Samaritans Wellness Check Pathway**

Rotherham Samaritans will provide a follow up telephone contact for appropriate people who have attended A&E and RDaSH Mental Health Crisis, particularly those who have expressed suicidal thoughts.

The name and contact details of clients will be left on a dedicated Rotherham Samaritans telephone answering system. A member of Rotherham Samaritans will make contact to offer emotional support.

Referrals for this service will be received from a range of mental health teams from across the Rotherham RDaSH Service.

The trustees determined that the funds would be treated in the following way based on the conditions attached to the grant.

The income and expenditure has been divided into Restricted and Unrestricted categories. This has been done to ensure that the £20K grant from the Rotherham CCG is protected allowing it to be used for the purpose intended and that any surplus should be carried forward into the next financial year.

1. The SYCCG grant has been split £14K Restricted and £6K Unrestricted. This recognises that the grant agreement document specifically emphasises the Pathway and the wider promotion of Rotherham Samaritans activities.
2. Costs associated with the building (overheads) should have had 40% allocated as Restricted.
3. Centre Operation costs overall should be allocated 40% Restricted concentrated on Printing, Postage & Stationary, Support Material and Travel. In the case of Travel it is argued that volunteers need to be at the branch to make Pathway calls therefore 40% is classified Restricted including taxi costs to/from the branch
4. Allocation of Telecommunication costs should be made on the basis that, line rental for the dedicated line and most outgoing calls result from the Pathway, are Restricted.

Rotherham Samaritans

Receipts and Payments Account: 2022-23

		Total 2022-23			Total 2021-22
		Ordinar y	Restrict ed	Total	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts	Notes				
Donations, Legacies and Similar Resources	2	4,644	0	4,644	2,351
Grants	3	7,000	14,000	21,000	17,803
Fund-raising Activities	4	2,237	0	2,237	2,156
Refunds	5	440	0	440	641
Bank Interest		163	0	163	52
Total Receipts		14,484	14,000	28,484	23,003
Payments					
Costs of Charitable Activities	6	9,764	8,019	17,783	14,215
Centre Refurbishment	7	2,028	0	2,028	3,378
Fund-raising Costs	8	1,708	0	1,708	196
Governance Costs	9	8,348	0	8,348	2,100
Total Payments		21,847	8,019	29,866	19,890
Net Income (Expenditure) for Year before transfers		-7,363	5,981	-1,382	3,113
Net Movement of Funds	10	0	0	0	0
Net Movement of Funds in the Year		-7,363	5,981	-1,382	3,113
Cash balances brought forward 1st April 2022		79,664	0	79,664	76,551
Cash balances carried forward 31 March 2023		72,301	5,981	78,282	79,664

Rotherham Samaritans

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ending 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Assets					
Cash Funds					
Bank Balances					
NatWest Current Account		8,182		8,182	9,538
Old charity account		100		100	100
Virgin Charity Account		64,019	5,981	70,000	70,000
Petty Cash		0		0	26
Total Cash Funds		72,301	5,981	78,282	79,664

		Unrestricted Fund Book Value 2023 £	Restricted Fund Book Value 2023 £	Unrestricted Fund Current Value 2023 £	Restricted Fund Current Value 2022 £
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use					
Fixed Assets					
Freehold Property					
Cost Brought Forward			19,348		
Total Freehold Property	11				125,000
Fixtures & Fittings	12	0			
Total Fixed Assets		0	19,348	0	125,000

Liabilities

The General Office contribution based on income during 2022-23 is estimated to be £5,740
This becomes due before the end of 2023.

A total of £370 has been accumulated from deposits on entry fobs which is reclaimable when
a volunteers leaves.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by :

Director

Treasurer

Rotherham Samaritans

Notes on the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023

2. Donations

Anonymous and under £50
Deposits on Fobs
Donations Gift Aided
Individuals
Legacy
Organisations

2022-23			Total
Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
90		90	0
90		90	110
2,069		2,069	1,496
149		149	210
0		0	0
2,246		2,246	535
4,644	0	4,644	2,351

3. Grants & Funding Received

Arnold Clark Community Fund
SY CCG
Pears Funding (CO)

2022-23			Total
Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
1,000		1,000	0
6,000	14,000	20,000	15,000
0		0	2,803
7,000	14,000	21,000	17,803

4. Income from Fund Raising Activities

Brinsworth Gala
Christmas Cards
Copper Jar
Giving Sites
Organisations
Public Events Gift Aided
Samarathon
Sams Collection Houses
Sara Millican Concert
Tax Reclaimed (Gift Aided Donations)

2022-23			Total
Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
132		132	0
82		82	57
23		23	0
629		629	103
99		99	
440		440	0
115		115	1,463
0		0	13
717		717	
0		0	521
2,237	0	2,237	2,156

5. Refunds

RMBC Council Tax
Fiona 92: printing etc
Yorkshire Water

2022-23			Total
Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
440		440	0
0		0	125
0		0	516
440	0	440	516

Rotherham Samaritans

Notes on the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023

6. Direct Charitable Activity

		2022-23			Total
		Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
Centre - Building	6.1	4,059	2,762	6,821	4,818
Centre Operation	6.2	4,357	4,440	8,797	6,126
Centre - Telecommunications	6.3	1,347	817	2,165	3,271
		9,764	8,019	17,783	14,215

6.1 Centre - Building

		2022-23			Total
		Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
Self Employed Cleaner		736	560	1,296	1,091
Cleaning - Materials		0		0	138
Cleaning - Windows		63		63	60
Council Tax		278	185	463	440
Furniture & Fittings			0	0	182
Insurance		519	300	819	767
Kitchen Equipment				0	8
Maintenance		533	369	901	731
Security		69	45	114	228
Utilities - Electricity		344	295	639	498
Utilities - Gas		1,302	866	2,168	228
Utilities - Water		96	70	166	255
Waste Disposal		120	72	192	192
		4,059	2,762	6,821	4,818

6.2 Centre - Operation

		2022-23			Total
		Ordinary	Restricted	Total	2021-22
Advertising & Recruitment		4	1,690	1,694	112
Computer Consumables		0		0	29
Computer Systems Software		116		116	155
Computing Equipment		0		0	30
Courses Conferences & Training		10		10	0
Outreach & Awareness		0	272	272	0
Printing Stationery & Postage		338	470	808	892
Refreshments - Visitors		125		125	0
Refreshments - Volunteers		326	56	382	278
Support Material		27	116	143	879
Taxis		598	335	933	773
Mileage - Volunteers		2,507	1,502	4,009	1,986
Mileage - Interim Director		40		40	993
Volunteer Social Events		265		265	0
		4,357	4,440	8,797	6,126

Rotherham Samaritans

Notes on the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023

6.3 Centre - Telecommunications

	2022-23			Total 2021-22
	Ordinary	Restricted	Total	
Broadband	120	108	228	228
CONNECT Computer			0	264
Call Charges		444	444	714
Equipment	539		539	1,884
Line Rental	396	131	527	
Phone Bill VAT	120	134	254	
Phone - Director	120		120	181
Select Services	53		53	
	1,347	817	2,165	3,271

7 Centre - Refurbishment

	2022-23			Total 2021-22
	Ordinary	Restricted	Total	
Building Work	0		0	3120
Fixtures & Fittings	2,028		2,028	258
	2,028	0	2,028	3,378

8 Cost of Fund Raising

	2022-23			Total 2021-22
	Ordinary	Restricted	Total	
Christmas Cards	87		87	57
Equipment	1,501		1,501	94
Gambling Licence	0		0	20
General Expenses	120		120	25
	1,708	0	1,708	196

9 Governance Costs

	2022-23			Total 2021-22
	Ordinary	Restricted	Total	
Administration	35		35	35
General Office Contribution	8,313		8,313	1,962
Gifts	0		0	103
	8,348	0	8,348	2,100

11 Freehold Property

Based on recent sales of adjoining property, the trustees determined that the value of 22 Percy Street is £125,000

12 Fixtures & Fittings

The trustees have decided that all fixtures and fittings, including computers and office equipment, shall be written off in the year of purchase.